

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING

A report of the Secretary of the Treasury, in relation to the number and cost of vessels, and number of persons employed in the survey of the coast of the United States, and the amount of money received from the sale of maps and charts.

FEBRUARY 12, 1849.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

I communicate herewith a report from the Secretary of the Treasury, with the accompanying documents, in answer to the resolution of the Senate, of December 28, 1848, requesting "to be informed of the number of vessels annually employed in the coast survey, and the annual cost thereof, and out of what fund they were paid; also the number of persons annually employed in the said survey who were not of the army and navy of the United States; also the amount of money received by the United States for maps and charts made under such survey, and sold under the act of 1844."

JAMES K. POLK.

WASHINGTON, February 12, 1849.

Report of the Secretary of the Treasury to the President of the United States, containing information required by a resolution of the Senate of December 28, 1848, in relation to the number and cost of vessels, number of persons employed in the survey of the coast of the United States, &c.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, February 9, 1849.

SIR: In compliance with your request, I have the honor to submit a report from the superintendent of the coast survey, which

furnishes the information required by the following resolution of the Senate of the United States of December 28, 1848.

Resolved, That the President be requested to cause the Senate to be informed of the number of vessels annually employed in the coast survey, and the annual cost thereof, and out of what fund they were paid; also the number of persons annually employed in the said survey who were not of the army and navy of the United States; also, the amount of money received by the United States for maps and charts made under such survey, and sold under the act of 1844.

The small vessels used in the coast survey are employed in hydrographic operations, (soundings,) or are used by the assistants in charge of the triangulation and topographical parties in the southern sections of the work where they are necessary to carry on the survey. Their number depends upon the extent and localities of the survey, and is regulated by the department. The greater part of them have been obtained by purchase, being estimated for in the annual estimates of the superintendent, presented to Congress by this department; part by transfers from the Navy Department of vessels too small for regular cruizers; part by the transfer of the steam vessels found useless and expensive for purposes of the revenue marine, and unsaleable unless at a loss of at least five-sixths of their original cost. (See also my report to the Senate, February 7, 1849.) Three have been recently received from the War Department, on recommendation of the quartermaster general, for the same reasons of economy which induced the transfer of the revenue steam vessels. The annual expense of working these vessels is paid from the annual appropriations for the coast survey. The officers and men of the hydrographic vessels are from the navy of the United States. All persons belonging to the other vessels are (except in one case) exclusively paid from the coast survey appropriation, and their number and pay are regulated, under the law of Congress, by this department. The repairs of these vessels have been paid from the annual appropriations for the coast survey, except those which were necessary to put the revenue steamers in working order, and others to a limited extent made at navy yards, for the hydrographic vessels, to obtain the amount of which I have applied to the Navy Department.

The number of persons annually employed in surveying, and in preparing the results for publication, depends upon the extent of work to be performed. This is limited by the appropriations and regulated by "directions" submitted annually to the approval of the department by the superintendent. Each field party is allowed a certain number of hands, and other persons, temporarily employed by the chiefs of the parties under the law and general regulations of the department, the amount of pay being fixed by the same authority. The same is the case with temporary employments connected with the office where the field notes are prepared for publication.

The sale of the maps and charts is made at prices covering but little more than the cost of paper and printing. The maps of har-

bors of refuge are sold at fifteen cents, and the larger coast maps heretofore published at from twenty to forty cents. There are now twenty-one sheets of maps published, and the number increases at the rate of four to five sheets each year. Ultimately the sale may nearly reimburse the survey for the cost of the printing department; but, as a considerable number of maps is distributed to literary, scientific, and commercial institutions, under act of Congress, this can never be exactly the case.

Very respectfully submitted by

R. J. WALKER,

Secretary of the Treasury.

To his Excellency JAMES K. POLK,

President of the United States.

Report of the superintendent of the coast survey to the Secretary of the Treasury, in relation to the number and cost of vessels, the number of persons annually employed, and the sale of maps by the disbursing agent of the coast survey.

COAST SURVEY OFFICE,
Washington, February 8, 1849.

SIR: In conformity with your instructions, I have the honor to submit a list of the vessels annually employed in the coast survey, the cost of those purchased from the appropriations for the survey, the cost of repairs made to these vessels from the same appropriations, as far back as the data are in the office, and the number of persons annually employed on the survey, and who are not of the army or navy of the United States; also the amount of money received for the sale of maps and charts.

The vessels are, with the exception of the steamers and one brig, small schooners of from thirteen to one hundred and seven tons, the larger class being used in the hydrography, and the smaller in the triangulation and topography in the southern sections of the survey, where they are necessary as means of transportation, and both convenient and economical as a shelter for the parties. My annual reports have stated from time to time the advantage of using steam vessels in the hydrography, especially in off shore work. The steam vessels transferred to the coast survey, on the abandonment of the use of steam in the revenue service, are not such as we should have constructed for such service; but, as already belonging to the government and being unsaleable, except at a heavy sacrifice, I deemed it my duty to endeavor to turn them to good account when their transfer was offered by the department on the recommendation of the revenue marine bureau. Three vessels have recently been transferred to the survey from the quartermaster general's department, United States army, and are reported in the list accompanying my report to you of the 7th instant. The vessels transferred from the Navy Department are too small for regular cruisers, but suit well for the uses of the survey.

As the records in the hands of the present disbursing agent do not embrace the cost of the schooner *Nautilus*, the estimated cost is inserted in the table. The cost of the vessels purchased since 1844 has been included in my annual estimates.

The repairs of the coast survey vessels are, in general, made from the annual appropriations. An indispensable condition of receiving the revenue steamers was, that they should first be put in order; the amount thus expended, which has passed through the hands of the disbursing agent of the survey, is \$4,440. The brig *Washington*, after being wrecked on the coast of North Carolina in the hurricane of September, 1846, was repaired by the Navy Department, which accepted the use of the vessel until the August following as an equivalent for the expense of repairs. The vessel did good service in the gulf of Mexico, while under the orders of and in use by the Navy Department. If other repairs have been made they must be of but small amount, and will be stated in the reply of the Secretary of the Navy to your letter of the 5th January.

All the vessels not required for use through the entire surveying season are hired at reasonable rates. Two of the vessels used in the Chesapeake by the triangulation and topographical parties, are hired. The sums thus paid are given in the table of the disbursing agent.

All the expenses of using these vessels, including those of the steam vessels, are borne from the coast survey appropriation. The officers and men of the regular hydrographic vessels are from the navy; but all other expenses connected with the hydrography (including the temporary hire of vessels, and the crews to man them, in certain parts of the work where it is necessary to use temporary aid) are paid by the coast survey. The persons employed in the vessels of the triangulation and topographical parties are, except in one case, paid exclusively from the coast survey appropriation. These vessels are used for the equipment of a party instead of tents, and are a necessary part of that equipment in the southern sections.

The list of persons annually employed includes both those engaged in the field work, and in the office connected with the preparation of the results of the survey for publication. There are, besides these, persons temporarily employed by the superintendent and assistants as hands, and in the capacities recognized by the regulations in the field parties and office, the number in each party varying with the requirements of the service in which the parties are engaged, but paid at specified rates, fixed under the law by the regulations of the Treasury Department for the coast survey.

The principle adopted by the Treasury Department in fixing the prices of the maps was, that the net price should pay for the paper and printing, and the amounts received go towards the cost of production of the copies distributed, and of new impressions from the plates.

The first sheets of the map of New York bay and harbor, published in 1844, were distributed under act of Congress, and sale

copies of four sheets were placed with sale agents in 1845. Copies of the other maps, as published, are in like manner distributed and sold. The whole amount received for sales to this time, after deducting expenses, is \$1,373 04.

Very respectfully, yours,

A. D. BACHE,
Sup't U. S. Coast Survey.

Hon. R. J. WALKER,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Report of the general disbursing agent of the coast survey to the superintendent, stating the number and cost of vessels and repairs, amount expended for hire of vessels, number of persons annually employed, and number of maps sold.

SIR: I beg leave to enclose the following table, showing—

No. 1. The number of vessels purchased from the coast survey appropriation, and their cost.

No. 2. The amount expended annually for repair of all vessels employed on the coast survey, from January 1st, 1844, to December 31, 1848.

No. 3. The amount expended annually for hire of vessels, from January, 1844, to December, 1848.

No. 4. The number of persons annually employed from 1842 to December, 1848. (Document No. 43, House of Representatives, 3d session, 27th Congress, gives the number of persons annually employed to December, 1841.)

No. 5. The number of maps sold, and amount received for them to December, 1848.

Very respectfully submitted by your ob't servant,

SAMUEL HEIN,
Disbursing Agent, Coast Survey.

Professor A. D. BACHE,
Superintendent Coast Survey.

No. 1.

Number of vessels purchased from the Coast Survey appropriations.

Brig Washington, 1840.....	\$14,000 00
Cutter Gallatin, 1840	7,072 98
Schooner Nautilus, (supposed,).....	10,000 00
“ Vanderbilt, 1842.....	3,000 00
“ Bancroft, 1846	2,098 42
“ George M. Bache, 1847.....	3,440 94
“ J. Y. Mason, 1847.....	3,181 75
“ Nymph, 1848.....	1,366 63

No. 2.

Amount expended for repairs of vessels from the Coast Survey appropriations.

1844. From January to June 30.....	\$4,077 23
1844-'5. Fiscal year.....	2,080 80
1845-'6. do.	3,164 74
1846-'7. do.	1,707 63
1847-'8. do.	3,403 73
1848. From July 1 to December 31.....	3,296 95

The following amounts have been paid for repairs of vessels, from the revenue service.

For repair of steamer Bibb.....	\$2,155 00
“ “ Legaré.....	2,285 00

No. 3.

Amount expended for hire of vessels from the Coast Survey appropriations.

1844. From January to June 30.....	\$365 30
1844-'5. Fiscal year.....	1,221 32
1845-'6. do.	2,141 47
1846-'7. do.	1,280 35
1847-'8. do.	1,988 27
1848. From July 1 to December 31.....	1,129 08

No. 4.

Number of persons annually employed.

Year.	Superintendent, assistants and sub-assistants.	Draughtsmen.	Computers.	Disbursing agent.	Clerk.	Engravers.	Printers.	Instrument ma- kers.	Artificers.
1842.....	15	.....	.....	.....	1	4	1	2	1
1843.....	17	.....	.....	.....	1	4	2	2	1
1844.....	18	.....	.....	1	1	7	2	2	1
1845.....	19	.....	.....	1	1	7	2	2	1
1846.....	19	3	.....	1	1	7	2	3	1
1847.....	18	7	3	1	1	7	2	3	1
1848.....	21	9	3	1	1	8	2	3	1

The names of persons annually employed to December 31, 1841, are given in Document 43, House of Representatives, 3d session, 27th Congress.

No. 5.

Maps annually sold.

The first return for coast survey maps sold, was made in—

1847.	Number of sheets sold	2,144.....	\$578 21
1848.	do	2,750.....	794 83

List of vessels employed in the Coast Survey, from 1834 to 1849, showing the nature of the work engaged in, and the locality where employed.

Year.	No.	Name.	In what employed.	Where engaged.
1834	1	Jersey.....	Hydrography.....	Great south bay.
1835		Jersey.....	do.....	Sandy Hook bar and Rockaway beach.
	2	Experiment.....	do.....	Long Island sound.
1836		Jersey.....	do.....	Raritan and Newark bays.
	2	Experiment.....	do.....	Long Island sound.
1837		Jersey.....	do.....	} North and East river.
		Statesman.....	do.....	
		Comet.....	do.....	} Long Island sound.
	4	Experiment.....	do.....	
1838		Washington.....	do.....	East coast of Long Island, Gardiner's bay.
		Experiment.....	do.....	} Long Island sound.
	3	Nautilus.....	do.....	
1839		Washington.....	do.....	East coast of Long Island to Pt. Judith.
	2	Nautilus.....	do.....	Long Island sound.
1840		Washington.....	do.....	Off Sandy Hook and N. Jersey.
		Jersey.....	do.....	Barnegat inlet and bay.
		Nautilus.....	do.....	} Delaware bay and river.
	4	Gallatin.....	do.....	
1841		Washington.....	do.....	Off capes of Delaware.
		Jersey.....	do.....	Raritan bay and river.
		Nautilus.....	do.....	} Delaware bay and river.
		Gallatin.....	do.....	
1842		Washington.....	do.....	Deep sea soundings.
		Nautilus.....	do.....	} Delaware bay and river.
		Gallatin.....	do.....	
		Engineer.....	do.....	} Delaware bay and river.
	5	Vanderbilt.....	do. & triangulation	
1843		Washington.....	Hydrography.....	Off Sandy Hook, &c.
		Gallatin.....	do.....	} Delaware bay and river.
		Vanderbilt.....	do.....	
	4	Steamer.....	do.....	} Cape May to Point Judith.
1844		Washington.....	do.....	
		Gallatin.....	do.....	Delaware river, Buzzard's bay.
		Vanderbilt.....	do.....	do do
		Gedney.....	do.....	New York harbor.
		Nautilus.....	do.....	Capes of Delaware and in Chesapeake.
		.....	Triangulation.....	Buzzard's bay.
	7	Van Buren.....	Topography.....	Chesapeake bay.
1845		Gallatin.....	Hydrography.....	Martha's Vineyard sound.
		Vanderbilt.....	do.....	do do
		Wave.....	do.....	Long Island sound.
		Nautilus.....	do.....	Chesapeake.
		Washington.....	do.....	Gulf stream.
		.....	Triangulation.....	Albemarle sound.
		Phoenix.....	do.....	Mississippi sound.
	8	Van Buren.....	Topography.....	Chesapeake.
1846		Gallatin.....	Hydrography.....	Nantucket shoals.
		Vanderbilt.....	do.....	do
		Wave.....	do.....	Long Island sound.
		Nautilus.....	do.....	Chesapeake.
		Washington.....	do.....	Gulf stream.
		Phoenix.....	do.....	Mississippi sound.
		.....	Triangulation.....	Chesapeake.
		Martin.....	do.....	North Carolina.
		.....	do.....	do
		.....	Topography.....	Chesapeake.
	11	Bancroft.....	do.....	Chesapeake and North Carolina.

LIST—Continued.

Year.	No.	Name.	In what employed.	Where engaged.
1847		Bibb	Hydrography.....	Boston harbor.
		Gallatin	do.....	Nantucket shoals, &c.*
		Wave.....	do.....	Long Island sound.
		Nautilus	do.....	Capes of Delaware and off shore work.
		John Y. Mason.....	do.....	Chesapeake and North Carolina.
		Washington	do.....	Gulf stream, &c.
		Phoenix.....	do.....	Mobile bay and Cat island harbor.
		F. R. Hassler.....	Triangulation	Chesapeake.
		Vanderbilt	do.....	North Carolina.
		Gerdes.....	do.....	Mississippi sound.
		G. M. Bache.....	do.....	Texas.
		Bancroft	do and topography	Chesapeake and North Carolina
1848	13	Wise	Topography.....	Chesapeake.
		Bibb.....	Hydrography.....	Nantucket shoals.
		Gallatin	do.....	Nantucket shoals.†
		Nautilus	do.....	Long Island sound and outer coast of Massachusetts.
		Petrel	do.....	Hell Gate and New York harbor.‡
		Washington	do.....	Chesapeake and outer coast of Maryland.
		John Y. Mason.....	do.....	Chesapeake and North Carolina.
		Legare.....	do.....	Gulf stream and off shore Long Island.
		Walker.....	do.....	Mobile bay, Mississippi sound.
		Hassler.....	Triangulation	Chesapeake.
		Bancroft.....	do.....	North Carolina.
		Vanderbilt	do and topography	do
		Gerdes	Triangulation.....	Coast of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida.
		Phoenix.....	do.....	Mobile bay.
		G. M. Bache.....	do.....	Galveston bay, Texas.
		Wave.....	Topography.....	Chesapeake.
		Wise.....	do.....	Chesapeake and outside.
	17	Nymph	do.....	Mississippi sound.

* Two hired vessels for part of season.

† One hired vessel.

‡ Steamer employed temporarily for about one month.

Towards the close of 1848 three vessels were transferred from the Quartermaster General's Department, United States army, to the coast survey. The Gallatin was exchanged for the cutter Ewing, which has been sent to the coast of Oregon territory.

